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Office Memorandum UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED FEB 26 1951 DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH & INTELLIGENCE

TO : The Files

DATE: June 22, 1950

FROM : EE - Mr. Johnson

1950 JUN 22 PM 2:41

SUBJECT: Latvian Underground Activities

The attached data representing information obtained from Latvian underground sources was handed to EE - Mr. Reinhardt [redacted] on June 21, 1950. A previous memorandum providing information from the same sources was handed to EE - Mr. Salter on June 15, 1950 and circulated to R - Mr. Armstrong, IAD - Mr. Carroll (for Defense) and SP - Mr. Joyce.

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routed to: R - Mr. Armstrong
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In almost every town the Russians have established special militia"nets". These special militia agents are clad in civilian clothes and operate in a district assigned to them by a commissar. They observe and study the inhabitants and report each newcomer to their respective districts, conducting searches in their homes. This considerably hampers the operations. It is possible to bribe the militia men and even GMB agents, although it is expensive. The black market has become quite developed, especially with foodstuffs and used clothing.

/5/ The number of tractors in MTS is increasing, some 70 % of which are on carterpillar treads and in case of war can easily be adapted to army needs. From March 1 to April 10, everyone had to participate in the gathering of pine cones. Between May 5 and June 1 everyone had to participate in a reforrestation project.

/6/ Toward the end of April, red posters appeared on advertising boards and house walls in Riga, of approx. 35x20 centim. size, which read:

> "Citizens! Unmask the spies, saboteurs and hired hands of the fascists and western plutocrats! Remember that the losses suffered in result of their actions, as well as blown up bridges, you alone will have to rebuild! Be constientious citizens of the Soviet Union!"

At every opportunity the Latvians have tried to destroy these posters, to make the text unreadable, or make their own remarks on them in blue chalk, e.g. "Don't be fools! Let the Russian be blown up! Blow up the tyrant!"

/7/ Between April 15-20 great masses of small dead fish were observed, floating down the stream in the river Daugava, below Saļa-spils. Seagulls and crows would not touch them, which indicates that the process of decomposition had already begun. The causes for the destroying of these fish is not known but it may be assumed that it is some gas or acid drained into Daugava river or some of its tributaries.

Top secret !

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June 21, 1950

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Within the last two months no mass deportations have been observed. The occupation forces of the U.S.S.R. have found new means of annihilating the actual strength of the above nations: /a/ people are deported in stages, in accordance with the plan elaborated by the GMB, e.g., first from Kurzeme to Vidzeme for seasonal work or to build rodds, then across the border to Pleskava, Vitebsk, or some other town across the border, whence deeper into the Soviet Union; /b/ Every night systematically, individuals and even whole families are being arrested in the country and in cities. Those arrested are gathered to the district and town jails, whence approximately twice a month, two to three freight cars from each jail are dispatched to the U.SS.R. The disappearance of single persons is not as conspicuous. The Russians are afraid to give the least evidence in writing regarding their sordid activities. MGB summons people for questioning by a warrant brought by a militia man. The recipient has to sign for this warrant but he may not retain it.

/2/ The attitude of the population of the three Baltic States is rather pessimistic. In the rural kolkhozes the spring of 1950 has brought famine. In the town cooperative stores no bread, meet, milk and sugar is to be found. Prices of delicacies, tobacco and alcohol are increasing. The conditions for the Russians are being improved. The soldiers on the streets wear new although not well cut uniforms. On several occasions the officers of the Russian army, in conversations with private persons spoke of mounting instruments of cosmic rays in LX 2. It is impossible to check this information

/3/ Between March 3-15, the summer maneuvers were held. The soldiers spent nights at bonfires or in tents made of tree branches. To pass the time they sang Communist songs...
A new weapon of the Soviet infantry has been observed. It resembles in its appearance an oxygen container mounted on rubber wheels. It is moved in the same fashion as an antitank gun, i.e. it may be attached to the motor cars of the motorized infantry units. The contraption could be a special giant land mine with an exceptionally wide radius of action. Further observations will follow.

/4/ New, strong units of MVD and GMB are brought into Tallinn, Shauliai, and Vilno. One may assume that the Russians are preparing major actions /against partisans/ in the forests. LX 2 activities in Riga and Daugavpils are made very difficult. Women can operate with a somewhat greater ease. Operations are also difficult in Liepaja, but they are easy in Ventspils and in towns in Vidzeme.

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